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REPLY (JCB-001-PCT)

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REPLY

To: Commissioner of the Patent Office
(Mr. Motohiro Okumura, Examiner of the Patent Office)

1. Identification of the International Application
PCT/JP03/07560

2. Applicant

Name: JCB CO., LTD.

Address: 1-22, Minami Aoyama 5-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 107-8686 JAPAN

Country of nationality: JAPAN

Country of residence: JAPAN

3. Agent

Name: NAKOSHI Hideo

Address: Ikuta & Nakoshi, Roppongi First Bldg. 7F.,
9-9, Roppongi 1-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032 JAPAN

Name: IKUTA Tetsuo

Address: Ikuta & Nakoshi, Roppongi First Bldg. 7F.,
9-9, Roppongi 1-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032 JAPAN

4. Date of Notification 23.03.2004

5. Subject Matter of Reply

We answer the international preliminary examination written opinion as follows.

(1) The gist of the written opinion

The written opinion dated March 23, 2004 expresses the following opinions:

- [1] the inventions according to claims 2 and 10 in the application are obvious in light of the documents 1 and 2 cited in the international search report;
- [2] the inventions according to claims 3 and 11 in the application are obvious because of the reasons of claims 2 and 10 and because those skilled in the art could have easily made the inventions;
- [3] the inventions according to claims 4 and 12 in this application are obvious because of the reasons of claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 and because those skilled in the art could have easily made the inventions;
- [4] the inventions according to claims 7 and 15 in this application are obvious because of the reasons of claims 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 and because those skilled in the art could have easily made the inventions; and
- [5] the inventions according to claims 8 and 16 in this application are obvious because of the reasons of claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 15

and because those skilled in the art could have easily made the inventions.

The written opinion states that the inventions according to claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 13 and 14 which are not described above are non-obvious.

(2) The reason for why the preliminary examination report on the affirmation of the non-obviousness of the present invention should be prepared.

[1] The applicant has made amendments in order to overcome obviousness of the claimed inventions which were pointed out by the examiner in the written amendment which has been submitted together with this written reply. Because of this reason, we consider that the obviousness rejection has been overcome.

[2] Amended claims

1. A card issuing system comprising a card issuing center for storing card writing data including specific information such as a card number and/or personal information prepared based on a request for IC card application from a customer, and a base for receiving the card writing data from the card issuing center via a network, writing them into the IC card and issuing the IC card, wherein

the card issuing center has a center communication means for transmitting the customer's card writing data to the base via

the network, and

the base has a card communication mediate means for receiving the card writing data from the center communication means and transmitting the card writing data to the IC card connected to a terminal without storing them in the terminal of the base,

thereby securing security of the specific information and/or the personal information included in the card writing data.

2. Deleted

3. The card issuing system according to claim 1, wherein the card issuing system has in the card issuing center a log management database for storing a communication result such that the card writing data have been transmitted from the card issuing center to the base, and

for receiving the card writing data and for receiving the result of writing into the IC card from the base so as to store it.

4. The card issuing system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the card issuing system has in the card issuing center a control terminal authentication means for determining availability of an access to the card issuing center from the terminal in the base based on a control terminal authentication database in which authentication information specific to the terminal is stored.

5. A card issuing system comprising a base for writing card writing data including specific information such as a customer's card number and/or personal information into an IC card and issuing the IC card to the customer, wherein

a terminal has a card communication mediate means for receiving the customer's card writing data from a card issuing center via a network, transmitting the customer's card writing data to the IC card connected to the terminal without storing the card writing data in the terminal in the base, and transmitting a result of writing into the IC card to the card issuing center via the network, and

the card writing data are received from the card issuing center securely by communication with the card issuing center.

6. The card issuing system according to claim 1 or 5, wherein the terminal has a reader/writer authentication means for determining availability of an access to the terminal from a card reader/writer for writing the card writing data into the IC card based on a reader/writer authentication database into which authentication information specific to the card reader/writer is stored.
7. The card issuing system according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6, wherein the IC card is determined as authenticated or

unauthenticated by using a key which is the same as an access key stored in the IC card.

8. The card issuing system according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 7, wherein a new IC card is issued to a customer or personal information and application programs in an issued IC card are rewritten in the base.

9. A card issuing method which is used by a card issuing center for storing card writing data including specific information such as a card number and/or personal information prepared based on a request for IC card application from a customer, and a base for receiving the card writing data from the card issuing center via a network and writing them into the IC card so as to issue the IC card, wherein

the card issuing center transmits the customer's card writing data to the base via a network, and

the base receives the card writing data from the card issuing center and transmitting them to the IC card connected to a terminal without storing the card writing data in the terminal in the base,

thereby securing security of the specific information and/or the personal information included in the card writing data.

10. Deleted

11. The card issuing method according to claim 9, wherein

a communication result such that the card writing data have been transmitted from the card issuing center to the bases is stored in a log management database in the card issuing center, and

the card writing data are received, and a result of writing into the IC card is received from the base so as to be stored in the log management database.

12. The card issuing method according to claim 9 or 11, wherein availability of an access to the card issuing center from a terminal in the base is determined based on a control terminal authentication database in which authentication information specific to the terminal is stored.

13. A card issuing method which is used by a base for writing card writing data including specific information such as a customer's card number and/or personal information into an IC card so as to issue the IC card to the customer, wherein

the customer's card writing data are received from a card issuing center via a network and are transmitted to the IC card connected to a terminal without storing the data in the terminal in the base, and a result of writing into the IC card is transmitted to the card issuing center via the network, and

the card writing data are received from

- the card issuing center securely by communication with the card issuing center.
14. The card issuing method according to claim 9 or 13, wherein the availability of an access to the terminal from a card reader/writer for writing the card writing data into the IC card is determined based on a reader/writer authentication database in which authentication information specific to the card reader/writer is stored.
15. The card issuing method according to any one of claims 9 and 11 to 14, wherein the IC card is determined as being authenticated or unauthenticated using a key which is the same as an access key stored in the IC card.
16. The card issuing method according to any one of claims 9 and 11 to 15, wherein a new IC card is issued to a customer or personal information and application programs in an issued IC card are rewritten in the base.

[3] As mentioned above, the inventions according to claims 2 and 10 which do not involve inventive steps have been deleted, and each of the claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 has been amended so as to be dependent from any one of claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 13 and 14 which involve inventive steps. We, therefore, consider that the lack of inventive steps of all claims in this application is eliminated.

(3) Conclusion

As mentioned above, we have made the amendments so that the lack of inventive steps of the claimed inventions indicated by the examiner is eliminated in the amendment which is submitted together with this reply. For this reason, we consider that the lack of inventive steps of all the claims is eliminated and the preliminary examination report which describes that the inventive steps of all the claims in this application are affirmed will be prepared.

We, therefore, respectfully request you to prepare the preliminary examination report according to effect of the written reply and the written amendment.

Further, we consider that the amendments which have been submitted together with the reply are either deletion or fall within the scope of the specification, and the amendments are in compliance with the Patent Law.